CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE PACIFIC

Pac Theo Sem
Reading Room
2223 Atherton st

Year FEBRUARY, 1922 No. 2

I SOUGHT PURE BEAUTY.

! I may wander where the foliage roofs
vn solitude; or where the rivulet
s through the long green oaken glade, and birds
on the sun-white stones, and melody
all the hollow, and upon the grass
shadows quiver; or with mounting lark
cstacy sing in the eye of heaven;
vatch the tide swell in its narrow rift
p intered rock; or view the twilight woods,
l with the rustle of the homing birds,
n the lonely hills, while in the vales
streams that in the all-pervading hum
ummer are unheard, grow audible
ath the stars—but still the joy is not.

pure the dawn, so clear the dawn,
I feel my soul is made anew
sing upon the silent lawn
And through the wood's far nestling blue;
y, she would throat it with the lark
High soaring in the flowering May
ove the dewy pasture spark,
Calling along the meadow way.
t I have sought pure Beauty all my days,
That Something light, ethereal, that blooms
yond all earthly loveliness and lays
A spell on troubled Man, and mighty dooms.

DR. GORDON FORGES AHEAD.

other land-mark in the history of the First
ch of San Francisco was made with the in-
ation of the new auxiliary echo organ. The
l concert under the leadership of Uda Wald-
proved such a decided success that arrange-
s were made for a regular daily noonday con-
free to all. This proved an instant success,
it is believed that the daily opening of the
ch for a quiet noon hour, which can be taken
ntage of by anyone, will gradually grow in
lar favor so that the Protestant church can
t to the fact that it, too, recognizes the need of
ace where a quiet hour may be spent on other
than Sunday.

e regular services of the church continue to
ttended as largely as ever. The morning serv-
are devoted to the usual religious meeting, while the evening is continued by Dr. Gordon as a question-answering time, under his popular name of "The Question Drawer." This meeting is always crowded.

An especially attractive feature of the work during the present year is the Bible class conducted by Mrs. Martha G. Castor of Miss College. She is devoting the hour to a careful study of each book of the Bible in turn in the light of the best scholarship. The Sunday school in a great down-town church such as this is a hard problem, as most of the children of the families in regular attendance are far removed from the church. However very substantial progress has been made of late, and there is under discussion a plan for establishment of a new Sunday school in some neighborhood center of strategic need.

The peculiar problems which are met with in a church on the edge of business and far removed from the homes are being met as they arise and Dr. Gordon and the officers feel that their success in many ways, may prove a laboratory example for the guidance of others similarly situated.

HOW WE RANK.

Congregationaslists stand sixth in per capita giving on a list of seventeen denominations, according to statistics compiled for the United Stewardship Council. We came up two points in a year, passing the Protestant Episcopal church and the Presbyterian U. S. A. (North), and have contributed $7.19 per member for missions and benevolence and $18.36 for home expenses. The denominations ahead of us are the United Presbyterian, Presbyterian U. S. A. (South), Evangelical Association, Northern Baptist and Reformed in America.

Assistant Secretary J. E. McConnell of the Congregational World Movement writes: "The Commission on Evangelism has sent out during the past year more than half a million copies of literature. Herman F. Swartz, Executive Secretary of the movement has left to take up the work of the presidency of the Pacific School of Religion. Charles E. Burton, Secretary of the National Council, will have charge of the work hitherto conducted by Mr. Swartz."

THE PACIFIC

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THE GLAD HOMELAND.

Life changes all our thoughts of heaven;
At first we think of streets of gold,
Of gates of pearl and dazzling light,
Of shining wings and robes of white,
And things all strange to mortal sight.
But in the afterward of years
It is a more familiar place;
A home, unhurt by sighs or tears,
Where 'waiteth many a well-known face.
With passing months it comes more near,
It grows more real day by day;
Not strange or cold, but very dear—
The glad homeland not far away,
Where none are sick, or poor, or lone,
The place where we shall find our own.
And as we think of all we knew
Who there have met to part no more,
Our longing hearts desire home, too,
With all the strife and trouble o'er.

NO VIOLATION OF TREATY.

The decision of the District Federal Court that the anti-alien Land Law is not in contravention of any treaty rights of the Japanese in this country will come as a real relief to many of us who feared our Americanism may have been unjust. The claim has been so often and so loudly made that we were cheating the Japanese of certain privileges which were theirs by treaty promise. That we are not is a satisfaction.

The Court says "there is nothing in the treaty with Japan that secures to Japanese subjects resident in this country the right to acquire, possess or enjoy agricultural land or any interest therein."

THE MAKING OF CRIMINALS.

The weakness and the corruption of the constituted authorities are responsible for the growth of crime and the making of criminals. Many a man who has decorated the gallows would have been more honest and worthy had those whose business was to enforce the law not been derelict of duty.

Crime increases not so much because of the criminal tendencies of the "down-and-outs" as from the disrespect of the law by its own officers. If we would protect the weak from their potential degradation, it must be by compelling veneration of the law. Laws are made to be observed, not broken much less despised.

TO ARMS!

The liquor interests have used France, Spain and Portugal to compel Norway to repeal its prohibition legislation; the same interests have through the government of France accomplished the defeat of prohibition in Finland after it had been adopted by the national legislative body of that country.

Spain having recently abrogated her trade treaty with Prohibition Iceland, is threatening to boycott the fish industries of iceland unless the Prohibition law of that island country is repealed in order to make a market for Spanish intoxicants. Since Spain is the greatest customer for Iceland fish, the putting into effect of such a threat is bound to starve the little country into submission.

Bootleggers and the "luxurious and vulgar" rich are doing what they can to rob the people of the country of their fair victory over John Barley-Corn. The fight is on! To arms!

LOYAL TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The Volstead law is a good one. All good people and even some bad want to see it enforced.

But there are "others." They say it cannot be enforced, therefore it ought to be repealed. They know what that means. Simply this and nothing else—that the Constitution of the United States shall be ignored. The Constitution says very definitely that intoxicating beverages shall not be manufactured, sold or transported. The Volstead act simply enforces bodies in law what the Constitution demands.

But the law can be enforced and is enforced where the people of a city or state are loyal to the Constitution. It is only in spots where the people are disloyal, and refuse to pass state enactments in harmony with the Amendment that the federal enforcement is weakened. California through its legislature has passed just such an enactment; but the bootleggers and "wets" and sundry other individuals have held up the law by a referendum. If the California voter will vote that referendum into oblivion, California will become "dry" and law-abiding and loyal to the Constitution. It is merely a question of being true American.

A NEW EDITOR.

The Congregationalist has secured Rev. William E. Gilroy to be editor-in- chief to succeed Howard Bridgman. Mr. Gilroy is a Canadian by birth,

American by choice. He is 45 years of age, and eady has had considerable experience in newsper work. The Pacific welcomes him to the new i promising service.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

The Abingdon Press of New York City is doing ne noticeable service for the churches in pubhing "The Abingdon Religious Texts" under the torial direction of David G. Downey, with whom associated George Herbert Betts. We have aldy reviewed with satisfaction one or two of their lumes. Three other volumes lie upon our desk king for and also getting an equal commendation. **"The New Program of Religious Education"** by . Betts is a timely and compact little volume, ose 100 and more pages contain much informan for the progressive religious worker. The book cording to the writer seeks to "define the aims of igious education and to show its place in the heme of the church's activities."

In an early chapter the author examines what he les the "evengelistic viewpoint" and the "religious ucation viewpoint" by means of parallel columns. ere are seven heads or topics of discussion. Take e second for instance—the evangelistic viewpoint ys that the aim of the Sunday school is "to pre- re the child for the day when he will be convert- "; the aim of the religious educational process is lead to a gradual and continuous unfoldment the spiritual nature of the child."

The author discusses,—what is religious educan; Religion through education; The church's glect of religious education; If the church should opt an educational program; and (the best chapter the book) The new program.

"A Travel Book for Juniors," by Helen Patten nson, is a story of Dick who takes a trip abroad th his Uncle Jack, a newspaper man who has been t over the seas as a correspondent to write up e conditions among the people who had been enged in the Great War. The trip includes Jaffa and rusalem and Gaza, "On the trail of Joseph"; down o Egypt and back again through the Holy Land. will be a strange Junior who will not enjoy this velogue.

The Two Bakers—Clara Belle and Edna Dean—ve a second volume of the **"Bible in Graded Story."** is one is entitled "The Good Shepherd," and is itten for children from six to eight years of age. is a fact which our forefathers knew better than , that there are no stories so interesting or that ll so grip the mind of a child as the Bible stories; d it is a misfortune that fathers and mothers of lay are so little inclined to tell them to their chilen. These stories in this volume are "rich in ture material" and will prove the more valuable. e stories are all short; and illustrated. Here is the story of the Twelve Brothers; of The Silver Cup; of the Pillar of Fire; of the Battle of the Pitchers; and so on. Mothers who spend a brief time at the bedside of their little ones will find this a handy and valuable book for the "sleepy hour."

A LONG AND NOBLE LIFE.

The Ferndale church is most keenly bereaved in the home-going of deacon Mark Bugbee on Christmas evening. A resident of this valley since 1857, "Uncle Mark," as most people lovingly called him, had been so long time a part of the life of the Ferndale church that he had gradually taken up most of the tasks laid down by others. Every service found him in his place. His faith in God and folks, his patience with humanity and circumstances made him a most wholesome spirit in our community. Just what the church will do without the faithful deacon, church trustee and treasurer, usher, Sunday school secretary and librarian, we cannot say. Even the task of janitor had fallen to him for some years.

His children and grandchildren, with one exception, were at home for Christmas day, and at its close after a few hours of intense pain he went forth to the larger life. He was respected and beloved by the whole community. The funeral services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. Jessie Getty Heath. He is survived by his wife, who had been his companion for nearly fifty years, and two sons.

He will long be remembered as one of the finest of Christian men.

A VINDICATION.

A considerable publicity has been given to charges and allegations made against Rev. William T. McElveen, pastor of the First Congregational church of Portland, Oregon. The Congregational ministers in active service in that city, after making a full and careful investigation of all matters, unanimously adopted resolutions to the effect that while they maintain the "high moral standards which our denomination has held for its ministry from the beginning," they still believe, in spite of the fact that Dr. McElveen "may have acted unwisely and foolishly at times, he has not been guilty of any violation of these high standards of our ministry, and also that his manly and frank statement made to his church has cleared him from any reflection upon his moral integrity."

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT ASILOMAR.

Whereas: It is very desirable that the Pacific School of Religion be in closer touch with the Congregational churches of the Northern California Conference; and

Whereas: There is a real need for our churches to urge more of their strong young people to enter the Christian ministry and the various lines of spe-

cial Christian work, and to receive adequate Christian training; be it

Resolved: That the ministers and churches of this Conference set apart one day (February 26, 1922) for setting forth the needs, the joys and the opportunities of such Christian service, together with the advantages offered by the Pacific School of Religion for meeting this crying need and the imperative call to Christian service and civilization.

* * *

Whereas: The California Anti-Saloon League is the Protestant Churches in most effective action against the outlaw liquor traffic; and the California Church Federation is our inter-denominational agency of fellowship and action on many matters, and the Near East Relief is the benevolent agency without which extermination would still be the probable fate of peoples that our own boards have worked with for eighty years;

Resolved: That the Conference would specially urge its churches not to leave out these three agencies from their support this critical year, but rather we should consider the Anti-Saloon League, the Near East Relief and the Church Federation as deserving our recognition and support next in order after our Congregational Boards and Societies have been provided for.

* * *

Resolved: That the Northern California Conference of Congregational churches stands for a clean press and will do all in its power to support every effort which increases the decency of the news column and eliminates the unessential details of violence and crime. As individuals and together we will ever bear this in mind.

* * *

Whereas: The pleasure and profit of this session of the Conference have been greatly increased by the presence in our midst of many persons, specialists in their own line of work; be it

Resolved: That we express our appreciation for the fine courtesy, talent and service of the following individuals and groups appearing upon our programs; namely

Rev. C S. Patton, Rev. H. F. Swartz, Rev. John W. Buckham, Rev. F. L. Fagley, Rev. L. H. Royce, Miss Sarah E. Bundy, Rev. R. B. Larkin and his Boy Scouts, Mr. W. S. Tupper and the Boulevard Players.

* * *

Since as a Conference, we have found rest and delight for body and mind, as well as spiritual inspiration in this wonderfully beautiful Retreat-by-the-Sea; be it

Resolved: That we extend cordial congratulations to the Y. W. C. A. upon the possession of this choice bit of Nature's best work, and express our appreciation for the service, courtesies and fellowship extended to us by this organization, whose excellent equipment has so admirably suited our needs.

* * *

Recalling the many years that Rev. Walter Frear has freely given of his time and labor, his influence and his sympathetic understanding love to act as Secretary and Treasurer for the California Ministers' Relief Society, remembering how by heart breaking efforts and through countless letters, he has secured and increased the aid that could be given to so many of our elderly brethren and their wives when things were hard; and recognizing that Dr. Frear, now in his tenth decade of life, has to be relieved of the burden of this secretaryship;

Resolved: That a vote of warmest appreciation of Dr. Frear's rare service be hereby taken and forwarded to this faithful Brother and Father, assuring him of our tender hope and prayer that, having ministered more thoughtfully than the rest of us to those in declining years, his own soul may find abundant grace and blessing given to him from God.

* * *

Whereas: Our brother, Dr. W. C. Pond, is unable by reason of advancing years to be present at these services of our Conference;

Resolved: That we send to him our hearties greetings and prayer that the Father's blessing may be upon him and His guardian care around him during the months of the coming year.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH.

Oakland, First.

The pastor, Rev. E. J. Van Horn, gave an address on Sunday evening upon "The world to which Jesus came"; using the five-real film issued by the University of California entitled "Julius Caesar." The film is an educational, and not religious, but its lesson was tremendously religious as used by Dr. Van Horn. The church was crowded and many hundreds were unable to get in. The scenes taken were trustworthy pictures of the times before Christ. It is a great story and employs hundreds of actors. On the following Sunday Dr. Van Horn used the educational film, "The Fall of Pompeii."

The clerk's annual report shows that this church received during the year 39 on confession of faith and 55 by letter. Adult baptisms were 15 and children 24. The church closes the year 1921 with 61 men and 1,124 women on the roll, a total of 1741. During the absence of Dr. Van Horn in Chicago during December, Rev. Fred Morrison, the assistant pastor, preached on two Sunday mornings, his themes being "Personal Responsibility" and "Social Responsibility."

San Francisco, Sunset.

Rev. J. Bahnson, pastor. Recently the church and gymnasium have been repaired and repainted and the men of the community have built an attractive fence about the property.

Pacific Grove.

Rev. T. H. Dodd, pastor. Although the night was wet, the annual meeting was well attended. Annual reports showed gains all along the line. Nine hundred dollars was raised for missions; all home expenses paid, and a neat balance in the treasury. Twenty-five new members received, ten of them on confession. A debt of $307 has been paid and the church debt of $750 reduced to $500. The pastor's salary has been increased to $2.000 and he was granted a month's vacation each year. The New Year is entered upon with hopefulness.

Oakland, Boulevard.

Rev. J. B. Orr, pastor. The Men's Club at its December meeting was addressed by Dr. C. L. Koss on "Why I am an optimist." The speech was full of wit and wisdom. The Sunday school has contributed $27 for the Near East Relief. The Chevrolet Motor company gave the Sunday school $50, the most of which was used in helping the needy. The Sunday school has also received a beautiful banner with the letters "O" and "R" on it; they stand for 'Order" and "Reverence." The annual meeting revealed a prosperous condtion of affairs. The church raised for current expenses $2,248. It had also erected a a community hall at the cost of $7,000. Twenty-six new members had been added to the membership of the church. The Sunday school has grown from 165 to 189. Seventy-five dollars were given in benevolences on apportionment and $200 for other purposes. The church publishes a bulletin with a free circulation of 1,000 copies. The church voted to pay one-half of the annuity premium for the pastor.

Eagle Rock, Calif.

Rev. E. Morgan Isaac, pastor, January 1st, 1922, will go down in the history of this church as one of its memorable days. At the morning service the pastor received into fellowship sixty-nine new members. They had been of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Unitarian, Universalist, Christian and Quaker faiths, and some who had studied Christian Science for years. It would be difficult to find a more intelligent body than these sixty-nine. Twenty-four were men, and only four were under twenty years of age, and few beyond middle life. During the past two years this church has doubled its membership. The every-member-canvass was the most successful in the history of the church, the amount being nearly twice that previously raised. At the People's Meeting on Wednesday night the attendance averages nearly one hundred, and two years ago less than ten attended. This is known as the People's Meeting, and is in the nature of a lecture delivered by the pastor on psychological and scientific as well as religious topics. It is an effort to meet the demands of the hour for a new interpretation of religion in the light of scientific discovery. Into this midweek meeting come people who have not darkened a church door in twenty years. Erelong they find their way into the morning service. The pastor hopes to see the church outgrow its present plant and put up one more adequate.

Berkeley, Bethany.

Rev. William Floyd, who has two pastorates, was gratified with a $15 offering from the Bethany church, Berkeley, and $10 from the church at Bay Point—for the Near East Relief.

Honolulu, Central Union.

Albert W. Palmer, pastor. At the December communion 8 were received on confession and 18 by letter. Mr. Palmer preached on "Beho'd, the Master passeth by."

Hayward.

Rev. A. P. Orth, the pastor of the church, has sent out to all the men of Hayward a pastoral letter, asking them to tell him why they don't go to church. "The preachers do all the talking; I like to hear the men talk, I like to hear them talk back to the preacher when they have something to say." If the men will talk to him, he'll tell the congregation what they say.

Santa Barbara.

Rev. J. H. Batten, pastor. The church bulletin carries the following as a continuous invitation to the members of the congregation to become members of the church: "This is a Christian church of the Congregational order. It stands for freedom of thought, liberality of fellowship and the right of private intrepretation of the truth as revealed by the Holy Spirit to the individual. God is our Father, Christ is our Brother, and Divinity is the end of our Humanity. We welcome all sincere seekers after truth to this faith and service."

Alameda.

This church as it approached the end of the year found itself about $1600 in arrears. Its splendid spirit through all its years of honorable history manifested itself again and it closed the year with the full indebtedness paid and a small balance in the treasury for the year 1922; it had also raised for missions the usual amount.

San Francisco, Bethany.

This church, though federated with the Trinity Presbyterian church, has added several new members to its roll during the past year.

San Francisco, Mission.

Rev. Peter Simpkin, pastor. During the year the church has made some notable progress and improvements. A beautiful stain glass window has been set, at a cost of $700, all of which was pledged by friends outside of the current expenses of the church. The church has also paid over $2100 on

its new organ; and during the year something more than $6,000 in total has been provided by the church.

San Jose.

The church has been getting ready for the coming of its new pastor, Rev. Fred W. Morrison, of the First of Oakland. A men's club has been organized and its first work is to insure the new pastor with a crowded house on his first Sunday.

San Francisco, Richmond.

Rev. A. Craig, Bowdish, pastor. A very successful Christmas celebration was held, using the "White Gift" idea. After a pageant in which twenty-five girls had a share, the entire congregation came forward and deposited their gifts in the manger. Besides six fine dinners for needy families and special gifts for the members of those families, many envelopes were dropped, in which the givers gave themselves, their service for the coming year, and more than $100 for various benevolent purposes. These expressions were all voluntary and showed reverence for the "birthday of the King."

Ceres.

Rev. George E. Atkinson, pastor. The annual meeting showed one of the best years in the history of the church. All bills paid and small balance left over was the report of each department. In spite of bad weather and almost impassable roads, 125 sat down to the fellowship dinner. Although more than a dozen "Penetcostal-McPherson-followers no longer attend the church, the attendance for this December is 20 per cent better than a year ago.

Porterville.

Rev. C. R. Shatto, pastor. The church had a good fellowship supper and annual meeting. Twenty-nine had been received during the year. The Sunday school has averaged 130 in attendance, with an enrolment of 175. The Endeavor society has a membership of 30, and has contributed to mission work. The Ladies' Aid Society, a very efficient organization, has contributeed $780 on the church debt and for other interests. The Finance Secretary's report showed that the church had raised a total of $7,699, about $4,000 of this for church debt and $237 for benevolences.

Oakland, Broadmoor.

This is a new name in our Congregational directory. The church has not been organized, but the preliminary survey has been made and erelong we shall have a full-fledged Congregational church in this new district on the east side of Oakland near to San Leandro. The region has been assigned to our denomination by the Comity Council as our responsibility. A suitable property will be purchased and in due time a house of worship will be erected. The first meeting in the region was held on Sunday evening, January 22, in a private home, by Superintendent Dodge, assisted by Rev. W. W. Furze of San Lorenzo. Welcome and Godspeed to the new enterprise.

Sebastopol.

B. Dent Naylor, pastor. The annual meeting was largely attended and an optimistic spirit was manifest. Reports from all the departments of church work were very encouraging. Several fine tributes to the pastor's work and place in the church and community were voiced by different members who spoke "of the high order of preaching," the "genial fellowship," "unremitting service," and "general goodwill" of Mr. Naylor for both church and city. For the third time in the five years the pastor has been in Sebastopol a substantial increase in salary was unanimously and heartily voiced. All financial obligations have been met, and the church faces the New Year with "courage and good cheer."

DR. POND'S BOOK.

It is the privilege of few men to pass the ninetieth mile stone on life's journey; and what shall we say of the man who adds to that the honor of producing a most readable and informing book.

William C. Pond, D. D., has lived a long life, and the most of it has been spent in California. He reached San Francisco the day after he was 23 years of age, on February 24, 1853. From that day far back in our Coast history he has until recently been most active in church life. "Gospel Pioneering in California" is the story of these early experiences.

Here is an interesting story, informal in style reminiscent in matter, and interesting from beginning to end. The writer tells the tale of beginnings of churches, of the school of religion, of this Congregational newspaper. The pages on which Dr. Pond gives an account of his work among the Chinese are of special interest; for to these people more than to others has been the Messenger of Christ and the particular friend.

It is really an autobiography, the story of the writer's life, his experiences, the obstacles he overcame, the victories he was enabled to achieve; and for that reason is all the more vital and intimate.

All pastors and many church workers here in California will wish not only to read this book, but also to have it on hand for future reference. We congratulate the aged author on his accomplishment.

THE MINISTER.

Rev. Paul Rader, who was many years ago in charge of the Hassalo street church of Portland, Oregon, has resigned the pastorate of the Moody church, Chicago, in order to accept the presidency of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, founded by Rev. A. B. Simpson. Mr. Rader in his farewell

message to the church referred to his past ministerial life as "all those years of hypocrisy, all those years of darkness and delusion," when he was "walking in rationalism and materialism that had fastened upon me by the terrible awful stuff that is being dished out in the colleges of our day." He claims now to be "filled with the Holy Ghost."

Rev. John Augustine Cull, who has been spending the year past at Glendora, Cal., is to visit Florida for a while and later will go to Cuba. He expects to return to California.

Rev. MacHastings Wallace, who some years ago held pastorates on this coast, at Market Street church, Oakland, and afterwards at Eugene, Oregon, has resigned his long pastorate with the Brewster church, Detroit, Michingan. Mr. Wallace organized the Sunday school which afterwards grew into the church. He was its first pastor and has served it for twenty-three years. He served 31 months as chaplain of the U. S. Base Hospital No. 17 at Dijon, France. His popularity among the wounded soldiers has won his election as corps chaplain of the Sixteenth Army Corps.

Rev. Albert W. Palmer of Honolulu arrived in San Francisco about the middle of January and has been an honored guest in several places. He delivered the Earl lectures at the Pacific School of Religion on three evenings; he spoke at the Vesper service of Mills College, and was the guest of honor of the Monday Club. He goes eastward to fill various positions of usefulness, lecturing in Union Theological Seminary and at Oberlin; and preaching in several important churches in the east. He plans to return to the Central Union church of Honolulu in March.

Willard B. Thorp, pastor at Palo Alto. says of Dr. Pond's book—"It ought to be read by every Congregational minister in California, not only for the picture it gives of the early days, but for the spiritual message it carries."

The Mid-winter Conference of Secretaries and Superintendents in Chicago was a well attended and useful meeting. All the coast officials were present; also Rev. Messrs. Mason of Seattle, Brooks of Claremont, and Van Horn of Oakland.

OREGON NEWS.

Several churches are planning for new structures: Hillsboro has a campaign on led by pastor H. A. Deck, the required amount has almost been reached. Alameda, Portland, a new enterprise in the residential district, has foundation laid and will soon be worshipping in its new home; Robert Allingham, pastor. Silverton, the new organization of last fall, has a campaign well under way for new building; F. W. Keagy pastor. Freewater, Norman F. Cole, pastor, has its plant nearly ready for occupancy. Jennings Lodge, under leadership of A. B. Snider, is finishing a beautiful rural church home.

The Waverly Heights church of Portland, O. P. Avery, pastor, held a fellowship meeting with George W. Hinman and Superintendent Sullens present, with the result that the church has reduced amount of application from the Home Missionary Society by $100; and increased subscriptions on church budget about 20 per cent. The pastor was given a Christmas present of $45.

IN BRIEF.

The Christmas Fund for the benefit of aged ministers was large enough to give a special Christmas gift of from $25 to $35 to the most needy ones.

Mr. A. W. Porter of Alameda, who was elected last October as a trustee of the Northern California Conference, found that he was unable to fulfill the duties of that office. Mr. F. P. Cole was appointed to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting. Rev. W. H. Youngman having removed from his Association which he represented on the Board of Trustees, his place was filled by the appointment of Rev. W. H. Johnson of Oroville. Rev. E. A. King of San Jose having left the state, his place was filled by the appointment of Rev. Fred W. Morrison.

By comity arrangements the field occupied by the Bethlehem church in San Francisco has been turned over to the near-by Episcopal church, and the Episcopal church in Oceanview in return surrenders that field to the responsibility of our Congregational church there.

The First church of Oakland proposes to change its by-laws so that a member may be dropped from the roll by a two-thirds vote, the amendment being made so as to reach cases probably of members who have lost touch with the church and practically are no longer affiliated with the church. It is also planned to put on a "suspended" list—significant word—any who do not attend the church services or do not contribute to the support of the church.

Albert Palmer of Honolulu says that the supreme importance of Hawaii does not consist in its production of sugar and pine-apples; "but in its unique character as an interracial experiment station." Govérnor Farrington calls it "our little social laboratory."

All good Congregationalists will rejoice to hear that Olivet College (Michigan) has again opened its doors with an enrolment of 250 new students, 60 per cent of whom are men; and six of them are entering college with the purpose of preparing for the ministry.

Of the students in the tax supported colleges of the land, the Baptists have 200 for every 100,000 of their membership; the Methodists 500; the Episcopalians 900; Unitarians 1,000; Presbyterians 1,030;

and the Congregationalists 1,200.

The Monday Club of the Bay district has voted to hold all its meetings during February, March and April in the First Church of Oakland. So much confusion has resulted from holding the meetings at different points, that the action was taken.

THE STORY OF THE VIGILANTES.

Two thick octavo volumes at the hand of Mary Floyd Williams, Ph. D., have been issued by the University of California Press; the one "The History of the San Francisco Committee of Vigilance of 1851" (pages 555); and the other presenting in fulness and order the minutes, papers, financial accounts and vouchers of that organization (922 pages).

They are immensely valuable as a part of the history of California, especially in its most stirring days; but through the skill and fine literary style of the author they are more fascinating than any work of fiction.

A vast quantity of material relating to those few crucial years lay awaiting some one who has "patience, scholarly insight and training in methods of historical research, and who had also had an enthusiasm for the broader subject of San Francisco local history." That person was found at last in the daughter of one of the early pioneers who himself had been a member of the Committee of Vigilance.

It was a work of years which Dr. Williams undertook. Prof. Morse Stephens has said concerning it, 'only one who has seen the papers can realize the irksome nature of the task and the countless problems that arose concerning the decipherment of handwriting, the spelling of proper names and the verification of obscure allusions to persons, places and events."

The Committee of Vigilance sprang into being because of the lawlessness of the day; officials appointed for the enforcement of the law were corrupt; pudges were too often suspected of accepting bribes; prisoners evidently guilty were too often dismissed or allowed to escape after arrest, more often they were not arrested at all.

The discovery of gold had brought into the country great throngs from all parts of the world; many criminals and ex-convicts were among them. The city of San Francisco for a time was in the power of an organized group of bandits and cut-throats called "The Hounds." Men convicted of crime in Europe who had been sent to Australia came red-handed to the gold-diggings. Probably no locality had so large and perplexing a problem on its hands as did San Francisco in those years.

When matters were at their worst, a small group of earnest citizens, "who believed in the supremacy of law," came together to consult as to a proper enforcement of the law, outside of the legal authorities. The group soon enrolled upwards of 700 names. A score of them "were among the wealthy men of the city." But the larger portion of them "were clerks and small tradesmen."

This group of "law-abiding and law-loving" citizens soon became a terror to the evil-doer. Almost at the very hour of organizing John Jenkins was dragged before its tribunal and within a few hours was hung from a "beam of the old adobe building at the corner of the Plaza." From that date, June 11, 1851, the story runs on through many vivid months; the Committee ceased its activities "sometime subsequent to January, 1853."

These two volumes will be accepted as a fine contribution to the history of this western land. They must also be carefully examined by any one who is making a study of Lynch-methods. There will always be a difference of judgment as to the rightness of any band of people taking into their hands power which has been delegated to proper legal authorities. Even among the Californians of that day such a difference existed. We note that the Pacific of that time agreed with the sentiment that the Committee of Vigilance was doing its duty and ought to be commended, but when the Vigilantes seized Whittaker and McKenzie, spiriting them away from prison to the gallows this publication said that "the act had forfeited the confidence of the community."

There are many portions of these publications we should be glad to print for our readers. We can assure those who are fortunate enough to possess these volumes that they have before them a most excellent enjoyment, though the tale in spots be somewhat gruesome. The author has our thanks, as she will undoubtedly those of a host of readers everywhere.

The editor is faring well; bouquets are arriving; one appreciative reader, of excellent judgment, expressed (two ways) his feelings by a box of oranges. They were fine—both the fruit and the act.

"Though heaven will not run all to music, yet there will be plenty of it and it will be of the right quality."—R. L. Swain.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

HEBREW LIFE AND TIMES, by Harold B. Hunting. "The Abingdon Religious Education Texts." pp. 188. Price $1.25 net. The Abingdon Press, New York.

AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT, by Kenneth Colegrove, Associate Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University. pp. 333. Price $1.75 net. The Abingdon Press, New York.

PAGEANTRY AND DRAMATICS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, by William V. Meredith. "The Abingdon Religious Education Texts." pp. 212. Price $1.25 net. The Abingdon Press, New York.

CHAPEL TALKS, by William M. Brooks, chaplain of the Comnock School, Los Angeles, Cal. pp. 90. Privately printed.